REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending, with claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 13 being independent. By this response, the specification is amended to add priority information that was included in the transmittal letter and Declaration, but that was inadvertently not included with the Specification at the time of filing. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's priority claim in the Examiner's next official communication. Also, claim 7 has been amended and claims 13 and 14 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,982 to Vogel (Vogel). Upon allowance of the pending claims, Applicant intends to file a terminal disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-12 also are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,819,260 to Lu et al. (Lu). Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn, because Lu does not disclose or properly suggest all of the elements of at least the independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, and 12.

For example, claim 1 recites (with emphasis added):

> A system for parsing a piece of foreign language text into one or more phrases which characterize a foreign language document, the system comprising:
>
> a buffer for reading one or more words from the piece of text into the buffer until a break character is identified;
>
> a parser for identifying a phrase contained in the buffer, the phrase being a sequence of two or more words in between break characters;
>
> the parser further comprising means for determining the type of break character that follows the identified phrase and means for saving a key phrase from the buffer **based on the determined type of break character**;
>
> a database for storing the key foreign language phrases.

For example, as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 5 of Applicant's specification, individual words may be received at a buffer, and, after receipt of each individual word, a following break character may be received and analyzed. For certain types of break characters, the word may be retained in the buffer (and added to other word(s) in the buffer, if any) while the next word is checked. For other types of break characters, the word(s) may be deleted or flushed from the buffer, and, in some cases, words in the buffer may be simultaneously saved to a memory as a phrase. In short, and as claimed, a phrase is saved from the buffer (or not) based on the determined type of break character.

In contrast, Lu identifies alleged "break characters" only as a means of partitioning words within a document for further analysis. There are no types of break characters, where one type necessitates deletion of a word and another type necessitates saving the word(s) as a key phrase. Rather, in Lu, once the entire document is processed, the result is a partitioned document that includes only "chunks" of text, from which Lu identifies "phrases" by, for example, further reducing particularly long text "chunks" and then analyzing the entire document to determine which of the shortened "chunks" occur most frequently within the document, which may then (and only then) be designated as "key phrases" of the document (see, e.g., column 4, lines 1-37, as well as claim 1 of Lu).

To illustrate a practical effect of these differences, FIG. 5A of Applicant's specification illustrates a result of processing the first few sentences of a stream of text (from FIG. 4). In FIG. 5A, words such as "develops" have been flushed or deleted, while a phrase such as "snake-like robot" has been identified, "based on the determined type of break character" associated with these words. That is, even though the text of FIG. 4 has only partially been processed, key phrases are already identified and extraneous words already deleted.

In contrast, at a similar stage of processing in Lu, the processed words would merely have been partitioned into chunks of text, where, generally, no chunk of text would be more important than another (much less be identified as a key phrase) until after a remainder of the document text was received and partitioned AND the entire document text was analyzed for frequency of occurrence of each of the text chunks.

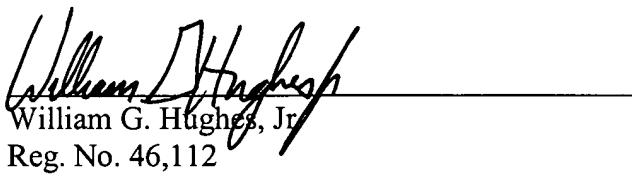
Therefore, Lu does not disclose or properly suggest at least the above-discussed features of claim 1. Applicant notes that paragraph 6 of the Office Action, which sets forth the rejection of claim 1, contains no mention of the above-discussed claim limitation of "saving a key phrase from the buffer based on the determined type of break character," and therefore cannot serve as a basis of rejection under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103, since both of these statutes require a disclosure or proper suggestion of all of the recited claim elements. As a result, Applicant submits that the proposed modification(s) of Lu does not validly support a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, along with its dependent claims 2 and 3. Each of the independent claims 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 13 contain the same or similar limitations as just discussed, and so are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons, along with their dependent claims 5, 6, 8, 10, and 14. Based on the above, all of claims 1-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested in the Examiner's next official communication.

Enclosed is a $86.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 26, 2004



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